

REMARKS

Please reconsider the present application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-5, 7-10, and 18-20 are allowable and for indicating that claims 14-16 contain allowable subject matter.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-5 and 7-20 were pending in the present application. By way of this reply, claim 15 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, claims 1-5, 7-14, and 16-20 are now pending in the present application. Claims 1, 3, 4, 10, 11, and 18 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1, 11, and 18.

Claim Amendments

Independent claim 11 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of now-canceled claim 15. No new matter has been added by way of this amendment. Accordingly, as claim 15 was indicated as containing allowable subject matter (*see* Office Action of August 2, 2005), amended independent claim 11 is now allowable.

Rejection(s) Under 35 U.S.C § 102

Claims 11-13 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,501,658 issued to Pearson et al. (hereinafter "Pearson"). For the reasons set forth below, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, independent claim 11 has been amended to incorporate allowable subject matter and is thus allowable. Dependent claims 12-14, 16, and 17 are

allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

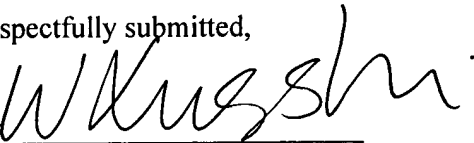
Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places the present application in condition for allowance. Applicant believes the included amendments do not require a new search, or at least simplify issues for appeal, and accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests entry and favorable consideration thereof. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 03226.387001; P9280).

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Respectfully submitted,

By



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